

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

t°

H 33° C

L 25° C

VIJAYAWADA

t°

H 35° C

L 26° C

TIRUPATHI

t°

H 36° C

L 26° C

Who Will Be the BJP National President?

Speculations that a South Indian woman will take the lead

Three-way contest intensifies over possible woman president

Campaign buzz signals Purandeshwari's strong chances

TPN | V. Krishna Kumar
Special Desk: The race for the next national president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has picked up momentum, and this time, all eyes are on South India. A surprising twist in the ongoing political chatter is the speculation that the BJP might elevate a woman leader to the party's top post — a first in the party's history. This speculation, widely discussed across national media and political circles, is believed to have been deliberately "leaked" from BJP quarters. Initially, Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy's name from Telangana made rounds. However, the narrative has now shifted, with talk growing stronger that the high command may opt for a woman, preferably from the South. With J.P. Nadda's tenure nearing its end, BJP's internal conversations and Sangh circles seem to be aligning towards a fresh, yet strategic choice. In this context, three prominent names have emerged:



1. Nirmala Sitharaman
Strengths: The Union Finance Minister is highly educated (JNU, Oxford) and internationally recognized for her economic leadership. Though born in Tamil Nadu, her marital ties connect her to Andhra Pradesh, strengthening her South Indian appeal.
Concerns: Despite her competence, she's not seen as a strong orator. Her Sangh background is minimal, and given her performance as Finance Minister, there's reluctance within the party to shift her out of the crucial ministry. Sources suggest she prefers to stay in her current role rather than transition into party leadership.

2. Vanathi Srinivasan
Strengths: A committed party worker since 1993 with RSS roots, Vanathi currently serves as BJP Mahila Morcha President and is part of the Central Election Committee. She is considered a fiery orator and a loyalist. Her past victory in Tamil Nadu against film star Kamal Haasan gave her national prominence.
Concerns: Her current party stature is lower in comparison to a national president. Moreover, the BJP's relatively weak footing in Tamil Nadu may reduce her strategic value for now. However, her ideological commitment and long-standing association with the Sangh make her a potential dark horse.

3. Daggubati Purandeshwari
Strengths: A known face from a prominent political family, former Union Minister, and current Rajahmundry MP, Purandeshwari served as AP BJP President, giving her significant political experience and administrative understanding.
Concerns: Her lack of direct RSS affiliation and history of political switches could be a disadvantage. Recent appointments of Sangh-background leaders like Daggubati Ramachandra Rao in Telangana and G.V.L. Narasimha Rao's prominence at the national level indicate a preference for Sangh-bred leadership.

While all three contenders hail from the South, aligning with BJP's ambition to consolidate its presence in the region, each brings a different set of credentials and challenges. The Sangh's influence will play a vital role in the final selection, alongside the strategic priorities of PM Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The buzz around the first-ever woman president of the BJP adds symbolic and political weight to the appointment. However, with no official word yet, the suspense is expected to linger for a few more days — until the party's high command arrives at a final decision balancing internal expectations and future electoral calculations.

No Mercy for Child Abusers: CM Revanth Reddy

CM Revanth pledges strict action against sexual offenders

Government prioritising safety of women and children

Reassurance centres playing key role in supporting victims

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has issued a stern warning, declaring that there will be no leniency for those who commit sexual offences against children. He asserted that his government is giving the highest priority to the safety and protection of women and children and will ensure that the perpetrators of such heinous crimes are punished to the fullest extent of the law. The Chief Minister made these remarks on Saturday while addressing a high-level conference held in Hyderabad on the theme "Protection and Safety of Child Victims of Sexual Assault." Revanth Reddy, who was the chief guest, called upon society at large to condemn acts of sexual violence against children without hesitation or fear. "There is no question of sparing such criminals. They will be punished severely," he declared. Revanth Reddy highlighted the importance of reassurance centres established by the state gov-

ernment to provide support and protection to victims. He said these centres are playing a critical role in restoring the confidence of survivors and ensuring that they receive all necessary psychological, legal, and medical assistance. He also stressed the need for increased public awareness in the digital era. "People, especially the youth, must be extremely cautious about their use of social media. Technology should not become a tool for exploitation," he advised. The conference witnessed the participation of Supreme Court Judge Justice Suryakant, Telangana High Court judges, Director General of Police Jitender, and other top police officials, reflecting the seriousness of the issue and the commitment of the government and judiciary to tackle it. Revanth Reddy concluded by reaffirming his government's resolve to build a safer Telangana for every woman and child, urging officials to act swiftly and decisively in all such cases.

This is not public governance, this is covert rule says KTR

KTR accuses CM of misleading farmers for votes
Says Congress is diverting water, funds and jobs
Farmer burden pegged at ₹39,000 crore
Invites Revanth Reddy to debate on July 8

TPN Correspondent | Telangana
BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao has launched a scathing attack on Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing him of running a "covert administration" instead of transparent public governance. He claimed that Revanth is acting as a covert for Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and challenged him to an open public debate. KTR announced that he will appear at the Somajiguda Press Club at 11 AM on July 8 and gave Revanth Reddy 72 hours



to prepare for a discussion on irrigation projects and farmers' welfare. "KCR is not needed. I am enough to take part in this debate. I'll come with only 10 to 15 people, not a crowd," KTR stated. He slammed the Congress government for making hollow promises. "Revanth said he would give ₹15,000 per acre and

promote three crops. Did anyone get even ₹1,000?" he asked. "Now, ahead of local body elections, farmers have invested their hard-earned money based on false hopes. Once the elections are over, those hopes will vanish." Presenting data, KTR said the cost of four cropping seasons amounted to ₹24,000 crore for pattadar (title-holding) farmers and ₹15,000 crore for tenant farmers — a total burden of ₹39,000 crore. "The farm loan waiver too has cost ₹38,000 crore. While KCR's government gave Rythu Bandhu at the time of sowing, Revanth is giving assurances at the time of voting," he criticized. KTR further accused the Congress of diverting Telangana's water to Andhra, funds to Delhi, and reserving appointments for loyalists. "The Telangana movement was born because of injustice in water sharing, and that same mistake is being repeated today," he said.

Sigachi Accident Toll Rises to 40 as Another Worker Dies During Treatment



- Nine still untraced, two unidentified bodies await DNA matching
- Flight arrangements made for kin to aid DNA sample collection

TPN Correspondent | Sangareddy
The death toll in the Sigachi Chloro Chemicals factory explosion in Patancheru rose to 40, as yet another critically in-

jured worker succumbed to his injuries on Saturday morning. The deceased, Mun Mun Chowdary (51), had been undergoing treatment at Dhruva Hospital and passed away during intensive care. Following a post-mortem, officials have made arrangements to send his body back to his native village.

Indira Mahila Shakti Celebrated Grandly at Praja Bhavan

- Seethakka, Vikramarka and Ponnamm Prabhakar lead state-level celebrations
- Women’s groups share success stories, showcase empowerment
- Govt highlights RTC free travel impact and women’s economic rise

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Indira Mahila Shakti celebrations were held with grandeur at Praja Bhavan in Hyderabad, marking a vibrant display of women’s empowerment initiatives under the Telangana government. Panchayat Raj, Rural Development and Women & Child Welfare Minister Seethakka formally inaugurated the celebrations and interacted with newly elected District Women’s Federation Presidents and Secretaries, creating an inclusive and inspiring platform. The event saw the participation of Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Minister Seethakka, and Minister Ponnamm Prabhakar, who together handed over cheques representing the first month’s rental amount for RTC buses run by women’s groups. The move is part of the government’s broader empowerment effort under the Maha Lakshmi scheme.



Women’s groups from across various districts participated in the event, expressing their gratitude and sharing their entrepreneurial journeys — from petrol bunks, tailoring units, grocery stores, service centers, Amma Adarsh Committees, to the running of RTC rental buses. The celebrations were filled with cultural performances, including dances and songs celebrating women’s victories and Indira Gandhi’s legacy. In a symbolic moment, the ministers launched “Maha Lakshmi – Pragathi Chakraru”, a book authored by women writers and poets on women’s empowerment. Minister Ponnamm Prabhakar read aloud a poem from the book that celebrated the RTC free bus travel for women, drawing widespread applause from the attending women and girls. “Within 48 hours of forming the Praja Jalan government under Chief Minister

Revanth Reddy, we launched free bus travel for women, which has now become a turning point in RTC’s revival,” said Minister Ponnamm. “A record number of nearly 200 crore women are set to benefit, with the government paying ₹6,500 crore directly to RTC,” he added. Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka hailed the scheme for bringing RTC from losses to a path of sustainability. “We are buying new buses and recruiting staff. The confidence and respect women now experience while traveling freely is evident across Telangana,” he noted. The event concluded with a press conference, where the ministers outlined the transformative impact of Indira Mahila Shakti and Maha Lakshmi schemes, calling on all villages across the state to organize similar celebrations to further women’s empowerment.

Ramachandra Rao Assumes Charge as Telangana BJP President



- Grand welcome at party office in Hyderabad
- Union Minister Kishan Reddy, DK Aruna attend event

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Senior BJP leader N. Ramachandra Rao officially took charge as the new president of the Telangana unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party on Saturday. The ceremony, held at the state BJP office in Hyderabad, witnessed the presence of Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, BJP National Vice President and MP DK Aruna, along with a large gathering of party leaders, karyakartas and well-wishers. Ramachandra Rao was welcomed with garland and felicitated by the party ranks in a grand manner. Prior to the formal assumption

of duties, Ramachandra Rao embarked on a massive rally from his residence, accompanied by enthusiastic party workers. As part of the spiritual proceedings before taking office, he offered special prayers at the Saraswati Devi Temple on the Osmania University campus and the historic Bhagyalakshmi Temple near Charminar, seeking divine blessings. Party leaders expressed confidence that Ramachandra Rao’s leadership would strengthen the BJP in Telangana and take it closer to the people. His elevation comes at a crucial juncture as the party prepares for the upcoming local body elections and aims to expand its footprint across the state.

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This is not public governance, this is covert rule says KTR

He also endorsed remarks by Congress MLA Anirudh Reddy, who alleged that Revanth Reddy is functioning under the influence of Chandrababu Naidu. “Anirudh Reddy spoke the truth, and I congratulate him,” KTR said. He ridiculed the Congress for taking credit for jobs created during the previous BRS regime. “They’re shamelessly promoting our work

as theirs,” he said. KTR concluded by criticizing the CM for using vulgar language in public and lacking understanding of river basins or irrigation projects. He reiterated that all key issues will be addressed in the press club debate and urged the Chief Minister to attend and respond before the public.

Sigachi Accident Toll Rises to 40 as Another Worker Dies During Treatment

Chowdary’s death further highlights the gravity of the June 30 industrial tragedy, which has emerged as one of the deadliest chemical plant incidents in Telangana in recent years. According to district authorities, 22 workers injured in the blast are still being treated across multiple hospitals, while 12 others have recovered and were discharged. However, the situation remains grim with nine persons still untraced and two unidentified bodies yet to be claimed, which are being preserved at the government mortuary in Patancheru. To expedite identification efforts, the Sangareddy district administration has launched a focused DNA collection drive. In coordination with forensic experts, officials have arranged air travel for blood relatives of the untraced and unidentified victims to provide DNA samples. On Sunday, samples will be collected from relatives of Chikkan Singh (Madhya Pradesh), Rahul Kumar Sharma (Uttar Pradesh), Vijay Kumar Nishad and Akhilesh Nishad (both from Bihar). All travel expenses are being borne by the administration. Sangareddy RDO Ravindar Red-

dy confirmed that blood samples from these four families would be sent to the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) for DNA analysis. Until Friday, only one sample had been collected. Of the 11 unaccounted persons (nine missing and two unidentified bodies), only six had two relatives available locally, prompting the administration to take swift steps to bridge the gap. Adding to the challenge, officials have also recovered 25 separate mutilated body parts from the blast site over the past three days. These remains have been sent to CFSL in the hope that DNA matching can help identify the missing workers. Of the 143 people present at the factory during the explosion, 61 were declared safe. With the death toll now at 40, and nine still missing, the final count may rise further once DNA confirmations are complete. The tragedy has not only shocked Telangana but also raised serious concerns over industrial safety practices. As the forensic and police investigations continue, grieving families await closure and accountability.

Former CM KCR Discharged from Hospital

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

BRS chief and former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) has been discharged from Yashoda Hospital, Somajiguda, after recovering from a brief illness. He was admitted on July 3rd due to fluctuating sugar and sodium levels and high fever. After two days of treatment under a team of specialist doctors, KCR was discharged on Saturday afternoon in stable condition. Doctors treating the former CM confirmed that his health has improved significantly. His blood sugar and sodium levels, which had initially caused concern, are now under control. They added that his fever has subsided, and he has been re-



sponding positively to the treatment over the past 24 hours. After being discharged, KCR returned to his residence in Nandinagar, Hyderabad. Sources close to him revealed that he interacted with some party leaders and expressed gratitude for the medical care he received. His family members and party cadre, who were closely monitoring his health, are relieved at his swift recovery.

Telangana Revises Working Hours in Commercial Establishments

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The Telangana state government has issued key orders revising the working hours for employees in commercial establishments across the state. In a major change aligned with its ease of doing business reforms, the government has now permitted employees to work up to 10 hours per day, while ensuring that weekly working hours do not exceed 48 hours. As per the new regulations, overtime (OT) wages must be paid if the 48-hour weekly limit is breached. The government clarified that employees are entitled to a minimum break of 30 minutes if they work for more than six hours in a day. Importantly, the total work period, including breaks, should not exceed 12 hours in a day. The new orders aim to provide more flexibility for businesses to operate while maintaining worker rights and safety. These revised working hour norms are expected to help streamline employment practices in retail outlets, malls, and other commercial sectors.



Maoists Deny Issuing Threat to Minister Seethakka

Telangana Maoist Spokesperson Jagan refutes letter dated June 26

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The Maoist Party has officially denied issuing any threat to Telangana Minister Seethakka, distancing itself from a controversial letter that circulated in their name on June 26. In a press note released on Saturday, Telangana Maoist spokesperson Jagan clarified that the party had no involvement in the threatening letter and termed it false propaganda. Jagan stated that the letter, which was supposedly issued in the name of the Maoist Telangana State Committee, was not authorized by the party. He emphasized that no such threat was ever made against Minister Seethakka, and strongly condemned attempts to attribute it to the Maoists. The spokesperson also used the opportunity to criticize the NDA govern-



ment’s ‘Operation Kagar’, calling it a repressive campaign aimed at suppressing the Maoist movement. Jagan claimed that the Congress government in Telangana had opposed such repressive measures, and reiterated that using force against the Maoist Party is not a justified approach. Furthermore, Jagan condemned police actions in tribal regions, stating that

innocent tribals are being intimidated and forced to report any Maoist presence. He called these tactics unjust and fear-inducing, adding that such pressure tactics are leading to growing unrest among tribal communities. He also refuted media reports suggesting that Maoist State Secretary Damodar is planning to surrender, dismissing them as false and part of an ongoing misinformation campaign by the police. According to Jagan, similar false claims were made in the past about Damodar’s surrender and even alleged death in encounters. The Maoist Party’s clarification comes at a time when tensions remain high in several tribal pockets of Telangana, and Minister Seethakka continues to be at the forefront of development and welfare initiatives in the region.

Stamp Duty Relief for Women and Old Apartments...

Telangana government drafts new stamp policy bill
Plan to reduce burden on middle class and promote transparency
Final decision after CM Revanth Reddy's review

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
The Telangana State government is preparing to introduce a new stamp policy bill aimed at reducing the financial burden on the middle class and promoting transparency in property transactions. State Revenue, Housing, Information and Civil Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy revealed that the government is planning to table the Telangana Amendment Bill-2025, in line with the Indian Stamp Act, 1899, during the upcoming legislative sessions. At a key meeting held on Saturday at the Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Secretariat, top officials including the Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister V. Seshadri, Revenue Secretary D. S. Lokesh Kumar, Legal Affairs Secretary Rendla Tirupati, and others discussed the draft bill with Minister Srinivasa Reddy. The meeting focused on incorporating current market realities and legal clarity into the new bill. The Minister stated that the 2021 amendment bill, which had pro-



posed changes to four sections and 26 articles of the Indian Stamp Act and was previously sent to the Centre for approval, would now be withdrawn due to objections raised by the Government of India. Instead, the 2025 amendment bill will reflect present-day requirements and will provide legal validity to newer types of agreements not covered by older provisions. The new policy is expected to include reduction of stamp duty for women as part of the government's broader women empowerment agenda. The government is also actively considering relaxing stamp duty for old apartments, differentiating them from newly constructed properties, which currently attract the same stamp duty rates.

These proposals will be finalized after discussion with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. Minister Srinivasa Reddy directed officials to revise land values scientifically, based on real market data, and ensure middle-class citizens are not affected. He emphasized that any revision should avoid controversy and be rooted in deep study and logic, particularly in areas with high disparities between market and recorded land values. The upcoming bill, once finalized and passed, is expected to provide relief to property buyers, bring greater transparency to real estate transactions, and modernize the state's stamp duty system in accordance with legal and market developments.

Congress Clash Erupts in Bhadrachalam

Podem Veeraiah targets MLA Tellam Venkat Rao

TPN Correspondent | Bhadradri Kothagudem
A fresh political rift has surfaced within the Congress Party in Bhadrachalam, with District Congress Committee (DCC) President Podem Veeraiah openly criticizing local MLA Tellam Venkat Rao. The internal conflict came to light during a Congress workers' meeting held at Dummugudem Mandal, where Veeraiah made sensational remarks that have stirred political circles. Speaking at the meeting, Podem Veeraiah expressed deep dissatisfaction with Venkat

Rao's presence in the party. "He is not a true Congress man," Veeraiah alleged, adding that the MLA joined Congress after winning from another party and had sidelined those who had struggled for the party for over a decade. Veeraiah warned that Venkat Rao's actions were causing disill usionment among grassroots party workers and that such behavior could seriously damage the image of the party and erode public trust. He emphasized that loyal Congress workers had been pushed aside, and their hard work was being

disregarded. "I will bring the issues faced by Congress ranks in the constituency to the attention of the district ministers and the Chief Minister," Veeraiah asserted, hinting at escalating the matter to the state leadership. This public confrontation has exposed a growing power struggle in the party's Bhadradri unit, with cadres divided between long-time loyalists and newer entrants. Party observers believe such infighting, if left unresolved, could impact Congress's prospects in the region ahead of future elections.

Former MLA's name removed from voter list in Telangana...

TPN Correspondent | Vemulawada
In a significant political development in Telangana, former Vemulawada MLA Chennamaneni Ramesh has lost his voting rights following a High Court verdict that ruled he is not an Indian citizen. Acting on the court's directive, the election authorities have removed his name from the Vemulawada voter list. Officials pasted official notices at his residence, declaring his citizenship invalid and stating that he is no longer eligible to vote. Sources confirm that this

action was taken after Ramesh failed to respond to earlier notices issued regarding the same issue. This development is the direct result of a long-standing legal battle initiated by the current MLA and government whip Adi Srinivas, who had challenged Ramesh's eligibility. After the High Court ruling, Adi Srinivas demanded immediate implementation of the verdict, prompting the election officials to take necessary action. Ramesh, a four-time MLA, had represented Vemulawada multiple times and held a strong political presence in the region.

However, his alleged German citizenship had been a subject of legal scrutiny for years. Now, with the court confirming that Ramesh is not an Indian citizen, the Election Commission has moved decisively to strike him off the voter rolls. There is now widespread discussion in political circles that this could be the first instance in the country where a person who was elected four times as an MLA has lost voting rights over a citizenship issue. With this action, Chennamaneni Ramesh's political future remains uncertain.

Karimnagar Gets ₹20,000 Cr in 6 Years: Bandi Sanjay

TPN | Srikanth Gurram
Karimnagar: Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar said that over ₹20,000 crore worth of development works have been carried out in the Karimnagar Parliament constituency over the past six years. As part of his visit to Huzurabad constituency, he inaugurated several internal roads built under NREGS and pledged to bring in more funds to make Karimnagar a model constituency for development. Bandi Sanjay was welcomed by BRS MLA Kaushik Reddy, with whom he jointly inaugurated 18 CC roads in Veenvanka mandal and 13 roads in Gandrapalli and nearby villages of Jammikunta mandal, each project worth ₹78 lakhs under the National Employment Guarantee Scheme. He later visited local BJP leaders and addressed the media. He said that despite losing two years of his MP tenure to the COVID-19 pandemic, he



succeeded in bringing massive funds from the Centre through schemes like Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, CRIF, and NREGS. He emphasized that better transport infrastructure is key to the development of any village, district, or state. He revealed that ₹291 crore was spent under CRIF for constructing 1,341 km of roads in the constituency, while ₹31.13 crore was used under NREGS in the last financial year alone. In total, ₹650 crore has been spent so far through NREGS. The minister added that

₹5,000 crore has been allocated for national highways, with works already underway on routes like Karimnagar-Warangal and Sidipet-Elkathurthi. He also announced that tenders will soon be floated for the Karimnagar-Jagtial road project. He stressed that politics should end with elections and that development must be the priority thereafter. "We are ready to work with all public representatives, regardless of party, for the people's welfare. Only then can we truly serve those who voted for us," he said.

BC Rajyadhikara Samiti Mobilizes in Telangana with Call for Social Justice



TPN Correspondent | Telangana
Amidst the dynamic political shifts in Telangana, the BC Rajyadhikara Samiti has intensified its efforts to mobilize and empower Backward Classes (BCs) across the state. The organization has successfully conducted meetings in 28 districts, forming regional, local, and district committees to build leadership at the grassroots level and ensure a unified BC voice in state politics. As part of this campaign, a meeting was held at Thukuguda today, focusing on the theme of social justice and state recognition for BCs. Former BC Commission Chairman Acharya and BC Rajyadhikara Samiti President Dasu Suresh were present as

chief guests. A large number of BC youth, students, workers, farmers, cooperative society members, and community leaders attended the event. Former BC Chairman Acharya criticized the current government for doing "grave injustice to BC castes and students", particularly in terms of reservation and educational support. He urged Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to address the disparities in BC student reservations, stating that ignoring such fundamental issues undermines the community's constitutional rights. BC Rajyadhikara Samiti President Dasu Suresh strongly condemned the government's alleged indifference to BC welfare schemes. He

said fee reimbursements are being delayed, and deserving BC students are being denied support. He also emphasized that BCs are being sidelined politically, but warned that the BC community will not remain silent. "BCs will rise politically and assert their rightful place in the state's governance," Suresh declared, affirming that the committees formed will act as vehicles for awareness, unity, and representation in the coming days. The program concluded with the allocation of responsibilities to new committee members, setting the stage for further grassroots activism aimed at securing social, educational, and political justice for BCs.

Opposition leader should speak in Assembly, not at press clubs...

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Senior Congress leader and Sangareddy MLA Jagga Reddy launched a scathing attack on BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), accusing him and other BRS second-rung leaders of disrupting democratic debate while Chief Minister Revanth Reddy continues to invite opposition leader K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) for constructive discussion in the Assembly. Jagga Reddy said it was ironic that in Telangana, the rul-

ing Chief Minister himself is calling on the opposition leader to attend the Assembly, while KCR and his party members are dodging debates. "Revanth Reddy is saying, 'Come to the Assembly and discuss.' But KTR says, 'Come to Boat Club or Press Club'. Why do we need an Assembly if everything is to be discussed outside?" he questioned. "Revanth and KCR are both first-benchers in politics. But why are second-bench leaders like KTR and Harish Rao interfering between them?"

He added that while Revanth is willing to sit down and seek advice from KCR in the Assembly, KTR is resorting to immature behavior. Jagga Reddy questioned BRS's democratic record, citing the suspension of Congress MLAs like Komatireddy Venkatareddy and Sampath Kumar during their previous rule. "You behaved so wickedly by cancelling our memberships. You ran the government by blocking the police. And now you are preaching democracy to us?" he said.

Accusing the previous government of snooping, he said, "They're tapping phones, even at Revanth's house. Wouldn't anyone be furious if their privacy is invaded?" Jagga Reddy went on to recall KCR's political roots, noting that both KCR and Chandrababu Naidu were Youth Congress leaders under the leadership of V. Hanumantha Rao. He added that KCR once dismissed the idea of small states while serving as Transport Minister in the undivided Andhra Pradesh Cabinet.

He further accused the previous KCR-led government of allowing Telangana to become an "ATM" for other states like Odisha and Punjab. "You sent a Chief Minister to jail by installing an ATM, and now you're talking about values?" he questioned. "If you have the courage, ask KCR to resign as opposition leader. Then you take his place and face Revanth directly. Only then will your words have value. Otherwise, don't dilute your relevance by acting like a political nuisance."



Bonala Grants Distributed to Temples in Sanathnagar

268 temples receive funds for Bonalu celebrations
Deputy Mayor Srilatha, MLA Talasani, and Kota Neelima present cheques

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

As part of the Ashadha Bonalu festivities, the Telangana State Government has sanctioned and disbursed grants for the development of temples and to support festival arrangements. On Saturday, cheques were distributed to 268 temples across the Sanathnagar constituency during a special event held at the Ujjain Mahankali

Temple. GHMC Deputy Mayor Mothe Srilatha Shobhan Reddy, who took part as the chief guest, presented the cheques on behalf of the government. She was joined by local MLA Talasani Srinivas Yadav and Sanathnagar Congress in-charge Kota Neelima, who also handed over cheques to temple committees, including the Mallaiah Committee. Former minister Talasani

Srinivas Yadav emphasized the cultural importance of the Bonalu festival, stating, "Let's celebrate Bonalu in a grand and traditional manner. Our Bonalu is now recognized worldwide as a symbol of Telangana's rich heritage." He further highlighted that Bonalu was officially recognized as a state festival only after the formation of Telangana, crediting the KCR-led

government for supporting private temples with financial aid and preserving cultural traditions. The event drew the participation of various temple trustees, priests, local leaders, and officials, who appreciated the government's initiative to boost festive spirit while safeguarding Telangana's religious and cultural legacy.



High Court Slams HYDRAA Over Sunnam Cheruvu Demolitions

HC questions GHMC over demolition of homes without notices
No further demolitions allowed until further notice

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Telangana High Court has once again come down heavily on the Hyderabad authorities, particularly over the demolition of houses near Sunnam Cheruvu in the city. Expressing strong displeasure, the High Court made it clear that illegal constructions cannot be brought down arbitrarily and there is a clear legal process that must be followed. The case was taken up after affected residents filed a petition stating that houses in Sunnam Cheruvu were being demolished without any proper survey, notice, or verification of Full Tank Level (FTL) boundaries. The petitioners also

claimed that they possessed proper documentation and that the demolitions were happening without any due diligence by the authorities. During the hearing, the High Court found no discrepancies in the documents submitted by the residents and slammed the city authorities—referred to in the court order as "Hydra"—for acting in violation of procedure. The bench categorically stated that "There is a method to demolish illegal structures," and that the authorities cannot act without following it, no matter how many times they claim the structures are illegal. In a significant directive, the High Court ordered that the Hy-



derabad authorities must now apply to the High Court before taking up any restoration work at Sunnam Cheruvu. Until such permission is granted, no demolition activity should take place in that area, the court ruled. The court's decision brings temporary relief to the residents,

many of whom claimed they were not given any prior notice or opportunity to respond before their homes were razed. The order underscores the need for transparent action backed by legal validation, especially when public livelihood and shelter are at stake.

Prabhas Has Not Helped Us Yet, Says Venkat's Wife

Family dismisses financial aid rumours
Appeals to film industry for support

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The family of actor Fish Venkat, who is currently battling a severe health condition, has come forward to clarify that no financial help has been received from actor Prabhas or any other film celebrity. Venkat's wife, Suvarna, addressed the media on Saturday to put an end to the circulating reports that Prabhas had extended aid. Suvarna revealed that Venkat has been undergoing treatment for the past four years due to the failure of both kidneys, and his health has now worsened to the point where dialysis itself is no longer effective. With treatment costs mounting, the family is in urgent need of support. "We haven't received help from any film personalities so far," she stated emotionally.



Fake Call in the Name of Prabhas

Suvarna also mentioned that someone had called them posing as Prabhas's personal assistant, promising help after confirming the details. However, no support materialized. "If Prabhas really comes to know about my husband's situation, I believe he will help," she said with hope. Adding to the distress, Fish Venkat's daughter said that the number shared with them as Prabhas's PA is now unreachable, and no one is responding to their calls. "We request people not to give us false hopes. Please, if anyone genuinely wants to help, come forward instead of wasting our time with fake calls," she appealed. The family has urged members of the Telugu film industry and donors to step in and support Fish Venkat, who is currently unable to afford the expensive, full-fledged treatment required for his condition.

'Digital Arrest' Scam Exposed in Hyderabad

77-year-old man loses ₹53 lakh to cyber fraud

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

A shocking case of cyber fraud has come to light in Hyderabad, where a 77-year-old resident of Ameerpet was defrauded of ₹53 lakh by cybercriminals through a new tactic being referred to as a "digital arrest" scam. The scam involved impersonation, forged documents, and psychological manipulation. According to police, the incident took place on June 18 when the elderly man received a phone call from an unknown number. The caller introduced himself as Delhi Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Rajiv Kumar and claimed that a money laundering case had been filed against the victim. He further alleged that an arrest warrant had been issued and that the victim's bank accounts were being frozen. To build credibility, the fraudsters conducted a video call and showed a fake copy of a Supreme Court order supposedly authorizing the freezing of his accounts. Terrified and confused, the elderly man pleaded with the impersonator to stop the action. Sensing the victim's fear, the scammers offered a false solution — they told him to transfer the money from his account to a "verification account" under their control, assuring him that the funds would be returned after confirmation. Believing them, the victim transferred ₹53 lakh in multiple installments. Once the money was received, the fraudsters cut off all communication. Realizing he had been duped, the man approached the Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police. Based on his complaint, police have registered a case and launched an investigation into the scam. Officials have urged the public to stay alert and report any suspicious calls or messages, especially when it involves threats or demands for money under the guise of legal action. The Cyber Crime Police also advised citizens never to trust unknown callers claiming to be government officials without verification.



Hyderabad Gets Women's SWAT Team in Action-Ready Uniforms

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a significant step towards strengthening law enforcement and women's security, the Hyderabad City Police has launched an all-women SWAT (Swift Women Action Team) for the first time. The specially trained 35-member team is geared to handle situations involving women protestors during dharnas, rallies, and public gatherings across the city. The women officers underwent two months of intensive training, focusing on Krav Maga, unarmed combat, and tactical response techniques. The unit was officially inducted on June 3, 2025, by Sri C.V. Anand, IPS, Director General and Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad. The SWAT team debuted in their newly designed uniforms and was first deployed at the Telangana Secretariat on July 4 to manage crowd control duties. Officials noted that this team will serve as a crucial force for ensuring order during festivals, political rallies, and emergencies, especially when crowd control involves large numbers of women. With this move, Hyderabad Police aims to not only ensure efficient law enforcement but also set a benchmark in empowering women officers with frontline responsibilities in high-pressure situations.



Wife Murders Husband in Bachupalli, Tries to Pass It Off as Natural Death

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

A shocking incident has come to light in Bachupalli where a wife killed her husband and tried to pass it off as a natural death. The incident occurred on the night of June 22, and police unraveled the truth after a complaint was lodged by the victim's brother. According to police, the deceased Anjilappa, a native of Ramakrishnaiahpalli village in Mahabubnagar district, had been living in Hyderabad along with his wife Radha. The couple, who married in 2014 and have two children, worked as daily wage laborers at a construction site operated by Pratik Constructions in Bachupalli. Over time, Anjilappa developed a habit of excessive drinking and would frequently harass his wife, suspecting her character. Unable to tolerate the abuse any longer, Radha strangled her husband while he was in a drunken state on the night of June 22. The next morning, Radha pretended it was a natural death, and with the help of coworkers, took the body to their native village for final rites. However, Anjilappa's brother, upon noticing suspicious marks on the deceased's neck, filed a complaint with the local police. A zero FIR was registered initially, and the body was sent for a post-mortem, which revealed signs of strangulation, confirming that it was a murder. The case was then transferred to the Bachupalli police for further investigation. During interrogation, Radha confessed to the crime. She was subsequently produced before court and remanded to judicial custody, confirmed Bachupalli CI Upender. The police are continuing their investigation to collect more evidence related to the case.



Taunted Over Studies, Jagtial Student Dies by Suicide



TPN Correspondent | Jagtial
A heart-wrenching incident has come to light from Jagtial district, where a young engineering student took her own life after being allegedly humiliated by her friends. The victim, Katipelli Nitya (21), a third-year B.Tech student, was staying in a private hostel in KPHB Colony, Hyderabad while pursuing her studies. According to police, Nitya was deeply disturbed after her friends, Vaishnavi and Sanjana, allegedly mocked her in front of others, saying she was “backward in studies.” The humiliation left her emotionally shaken. Unable to cope with the insult, she returned to her hometown in Jagtial Rural Mandal. On July 2, when no one was at home, Nitya consumed pesticide. Her family members, who found her in a critical condition, rushed her to a private hospital in Karimnagar. Despite receiving treatment for several days, she succumbed to the poison on Friday, leaving her family and village in shock. Grieving over their daughter’s untimely death, Nitya’s parents lodged a complaint with the local police, alleging that the actions of her friends had driven her to suicide. Acting on the complaint, Jagtial Rural police registered a case against Vaishnavi and Sanjana for abetment to suicide. Sub-Inspector Sadakar confirmed that a case has been filed and that a full investigation is underway. The tragic loss of Nitya has cast a pall of gloom over her village, with residents mourning a life lost too soon, allegedly due to peer cruelty.

Congress Leader Dies in Road Mishap

Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy pays respects and offers ₹10 lakh to family

TPN Correspondent | Nalgonda
A tragic road accident claimed the life of a young Congress leader, Shri Kurri Srinivas, from Chennaipalem village in Huzurnagar constituency. The incident occurred on Friday night near Pamanagundla in Kattangur mandal when a lorry collided with a vehicle carrying Congress workers returning from the party’s workers’ convention held at LB Stadium in Hyderabad. Kurri Srinivas, a prominent Dalit leader and active grassroots worker of the Congress Party, was travelling with around 2000 workers from the constituency who had attended the meeting. He died on the spot, while four others sustained serious injuries. On Saturday, Minister for Irrigation, Civil Supplies and BC Welfare, Shri Uttam Kumar Reddy, visited Srinivas’ family to offer his condolences. Calling Srinivas’ death a personal loss, he stated, “The Congress workers of my constituency are my family. The death of Kurri Srinivas has left me deeply pained and saddened.” Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy paid last respects to the mortal remains of Srinivas and handed over ₹10 lakh financial assistance on behalf of himself and the Congress Party. He also assured a government job for Srinivas’ wife and promised to take full responsibility for the education of his daughter. Kurri Srinivas was known for his consistent activism for Dalit rights and welfare in Chennaipalem village. His sudden demise has caused shock among Congress cadres and villagers alike. The minister further added that the party would stand by Srinivas’ family and honor his service and commitment to the Congress ideology and the people of his village.



Seethakka Calls for Aggressive Green Drive, Clean Villages During Monsoon

7 crore saplings to be planted across the state
Strict focus on sanitation and mosquito prevention
Minister orders daily monitoring and field visits

TPN Correspondent | Telangana
Minister Seethakka has directed officials across Telangana to intensify efforts under the government’s ambitious cleanliness and greening program, emphasizing that this monsoon should see visible results on the ground. She stressed that both tree planting and sanitation must go hand-in-hand and be treated as top priorities during the season. Speaking at a review meeting, Seethakka said that the government’s target this year is to plant 7 crore saplings, exceeding last year’s mark of 6.9 crore. She noted that nearly 9 crore saplings have already been prepared in nurseries, and called upon officials to ensure field-level verification of last year’s sapling survival rates. “It is not just about planting trees but about growing and sustaining them,” she said. The Minister directed that palm, palmyra, and fruit-bearing trees should be prioritized this season, highlighting their potential to generate income for local communities. She said that when people benefit directly from greenery, they are more likely to protect and nurture it. In addition to the green mission, Seethakka also gave a stern message on maintaining village-level sanitation. She asked all districts to implement “dry days” to eliminate water stagnation and control mosquito breeding, especially to prevent seasonal diseases. Fogging and bleaching operations must be conducted regularly, she said, and drinking water tanks should be cleaned once every ten days. She expressed concern over the slow progress in preparing pits for sap-



ling plantations, noting that only 50% of the pits have been dug so far. She urged officials to launch the plantation drive on a war footing, with immediate effect. Further, the Minister instructed that daily reports on cleanliness and greenery should be submitted without fail. She emphasized that officers must visit villages regularly and ensure that the program reaches the grassroots and benefits the people directly. “The goal is not just to launch a program, but to embed it into people’s lives so that trees grow and sanitation becomes a habit,” Seethakka said.

Godavari Water Level Rises Sharply at Bhadrachalam

TPN Correspondent | Bhadradri Kothagudem
The Godavari River is witnessing a sharp surge in water levels at Bhadrachalam, triggered by continuous rains in Telangana and heavy inflows from upstream areas. Within a week, the river’s level has risen from 4 feet to 20 feet, according to the Central Water Commission (CWC). On Friday morning, the water level was recorded at 14.5 feet, but the continued rainfall and inflows from upper catchment areas have pushed it up to 20 feet by today. CWC officials have warned that the water level is expected to rise further in the coming hours. As a result of the surge, floodwaters have reached the bathing ghats, prompting local authorities to stay on high alert. Officials are monitoring the situation closely and advising residents in low-lying areas to be cautious. If the rains persist and inflows continue at the current pace, officials may issue further advisories, including potential evacuation plans in vulnerable zones along the riverbanks.



Ganja Chocolates Seized in Shadnagar Grocery Store

TPN Correspondent | Rangareddy
The Telangana Excise Department has busted a ganja chocolate racket being run out of a grocery shop near the old national highway in Nandigama mandal, Shadnagar constituency, Rangareddy district. Acting on reliable intelligence, the Shadnagar Excise Police seized 11 kg 130 grams of ganja, including ganja-laced chocolates imported from Bihar, with an estimated market value of ₹3.5 lakh. Excise Superintendent Ujjwala Reddy revealed the details at a press conference held on Saturday at the Shadnagar Excise office. She stated that a youth named Pintu Singh from Bihar, who had migrated to Hyderabad for work, was running the illegal business from a grocery shop. The Excise team, led by CI T. Shekhar, raided the shop and confiscated 2 kg of raw ganja, 9 kg 150 grams of ganja chocolates, and 40 ready-to-sell chocolate packets laced with ganja. The accused Pintu Singh was arrested on the spot, a mobile phone was also seized, and he has been remanded to judicial custody. Excise officials noted that ganja chocolates were being peddled subtly to unsuspecting youth under the guise of regular confectionery. “We are taking all possible measures to crack down on ganja and its derivatives being trafficked in the state,” said Ujjwala Reddy. Excise SIs Sunitha and Srinu Nayak, along with staff members Rajaiah, Vinod, Ravikumar, and Rakshita, participated in the operation and press briefing. The department has vowed to intensify inspections and surveillance in the region to prevent such illicit activities.



T.G. Lakshmi Venkatesh Vanitha Hostel Inaugurated

Etala Rajender, TG Venkatesh, and Mallareddy attend as chief guests

TPN Correspondent | Medchal
The newly constructed T.G. Lakshmi Venkatesh Vanitha Hostel in Maisammaguda of Medchal district was officially inaugurated in a grand ceremony. Malkajgiri MP Etala Rajender, former minister of united Andhra Pradesh T.G. Venkatesh, and Medchal MLA Chamakura Mallareddy were present as chief guests and formally opened the facility. Speaking on the occasion, the leaders lauded the initiative as a much-needed step to support women students and working women by providing them with safe and well-equipped accommodation. They also appreciated the efforts behind naming the hostel after T.G. Lakshmi Venkatesh, symbolizing a legacy of service and empowerment. The event saw active participation from several local leaders and public representatives, including Medchal Rural District President Buddhi Srinivas, Urban District Vice President Adireddy Rajireddy, General Secretary Girivardhan Reddy, Council Member Janardhan Reddy, Rural District Leader Mallikarjun, Assembly Co-Convenor P. Shivaji Raju, District OBC President Burugupalli Ashok, Kompally Town General Secretary Madhu, Treasurer Mahender Sagar, and others. The inauguration marks a significant milestone in strengthening women’s infrastructure in the region, with officials expressing hope that such facilities would inspire similar developments across the state.

Forever No. 20: Diogo Jota, You'll Never Walk Alone



The pain feels surreal. The news of Diogo Jota’s untimely passing has shattered the hearts of millions in the Liverpool family. At just 28, the Portuguese forward had become much more than a footballer—he was a symbol of resilience, passion, and joy. In a world that often feels chaotic, Jota gave fans something pure to believe in. His energy, determination, and love for the game were unmistakable, and his presence at Anfield felt like a gift. Jota’s story was one of purpose. He married his childhood sweetheart, Rute Cardoso, was a proud father of three, and adored his dogs. But more than anything, he was a working-class hero—a player who understood the weight of the badge and carried it with pride. His chant, “Oh, he wears the number 20, he will take us to victory,” echoed from the Kop every time he touched the ball. Now, it echoes with grief. Even in sorrow, fans find comfort in memory. This isn’t just mourning—it’s a tribute to a man who touched lives with every goal, every smile, and every chant. As Andrew Garfield once said after the loss of his mother, grief is just “un-

expressed love.” In that light, our grief is a measure of how deeply Diogo was loved. Who could forget the day he joined Liverpool in 2020? It wasn’t a high-profile transfer, but those who believed in him saw something special. And Jota delivered—scoring on his debut against Arsenal just eight minutes after coming on. From that moment, he never looked back. He was relentless, clinical, and fearless. His crowning moment came when Liverpool lifted their long-awaited Premier League title. Amid flares, roars, and joy, there was Diogo—wrapped in the Portuguese flag, bouncing with the Kop, singing along to his own chant. It wasn’t just celebration; it was connection. He belonged to the fans as much as he belonged to the team. Jamie Carragher once called Jota the best finisher the club had seen—no small praise at a club that’s seen legends like Torres, Suarez, Salah, Rush, and Dalglish. But Diogo’s legacy isn’t just in goals. It’s in the love he gave and received. So yes, No. 20 is gone. But in our hearts, Diogo Jota will always walk on.



Gaza’s Final Act: A Handful of Dust, a Sky Full of Death

The recent announcement of a 60-day ceasefire in Gaza by US President Donald Trump offers a rare moment of respite for the two million civilians trapped in the battered Gaza Strip. Since October 2023, Gaza has endured relentless siege and bombardment, leaving behind a trail of devastation and unimaginable human suffering. Doctors like Taher Almadhoun symbolize the resilience amid despair. Having lost family members and his home, Almadhoun now cares for the injured in overcrowded hospitals, while struggling to protect his young family amid the chaos. His dreams of advancing in medicine abroad have been replaced by a desperate hope simply to survive another day.

The ongoing conflict is more than a crisis—it is a slow disintegration of Gaza’s collective spirit and dignity. Over 65,000 lives have been lost, with many more injured or displaced. Aid deliveries, meant to save lives, have tragically turned into scenes of violence, with civilians targeted while queuing for food. Basic necessities like water, electricity, and medicine have become luxuries few can access. Gaza is described by many as a “cemetery of the living,” where survivors live in constant fear and trauma. The psychological scars on children and adults alike will endure long after the guns fall silent. The deliberate targeting of civilians and the unbearable condi-

tions faced daily have stripped away any illusion that this is a mere territorial dispute—it is a catastrophe of the human soul. Despite this bleakness, a fragile hope persists. Acts of kindness, courage, and humanity continue in Gaza’s ruins. Volunteers share what little they have, and medical workers risk everything to save lives. This resilience is a testament to the enduring value of life itself. In the face of such horror, the world must ask itself: how can such suffering be tolerated and dismissed as “collateral damage”? Gaza’s tragedy should haunt us all and demand a reckoning with our shared humanity..

Cease the Cess: Time for Structural Reforms in India’s GST System



As India marks the eighth anniversary of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on July 1, 2025, the latest data highlights a pressing concern: GST collections have hit their lowest point in months. June’s collections stood at ₹1.85 lakh crore, showing a mere 6.2% increase over June 2024 — the slowest growth in four years. When adjusted for refunds, actual government revenue grew by only 3.3%. Domestic transaction revenues, excluding imports, increased by just 4.6%, barely outpacing inflation. Since GST is a consumption-based tax, such sluggish growth signals not only a slowdown in economic activity but also points to inefficiencies within the tax system itself. Eight years after its launch, GST needs significant structural reforms to regain momentum and fulfill its promise of simplifying India’s complex tax landscape. One long-standing demand is the inclusion of fuel under GST. However, States resist this move as fuel and alcohol remain among the few independent revenue sources they control. While this concern is valid, it cannot indefinitely justify excluding these major items from GST, especially when the principle of ‘one nation, one tax’ remains unfulfilled. To offset any reve-

nue loss, the Centre should consider increasing States’ share in central taxes, fostering trust and cooperation. At the same time, the Centre must reduce its reliance on non-shareable cesses, and States should avoid using additional funds for populist freebies. Another overdue reform is the rationalization of GST rates. The GST Council’s committees are already exploring options to reduce the number of tax slabs, which would simplify compliance and administration. Connected to this is the future of the GST Compensation Cess, levied above the highest 28% slab. Originally meant to compensate States for revenue losses during GST rollout, and extended until March 2026 to cover pandemic-related shortfalls, this cess has served its purpose. The Centre should resist subsuming this cess into regular GST rates and instead abolish it altogether. Removing the cess would not only be a goodwill gesture to taxpayers but could also stimulate much-needed urban consumption. GST is a pact not only between the Centre and the States but also with the people. It is time to honor that covenant with meaningful reforms that enhance transparency, fairness, and efficiency.

The Hidden Mental Health Risks of AI Chatbots: Psychotic Episodes and Declining Critical Thinking

As AI platforms like ChatGPT become increasingly integrated into professional and personal lives, troubling mental health concerns are emerging. Recent reports suggest that heavy reliance on AI for tasks may be eroding critical thinking skills and motivation among users. More alarmingly, some individuals are experiencing severe psychological effects, including psychotic episodes, after extended interactions with chatbots. Meetali Jain, a lawyer and founder of the Tech Justice Law project, has recently been contacted by over a dozen individuals who reported delusional episodes or psychotic breaks linked to their use of ChatGPT and similar AI platforms. Jain is currently leading a lawsuit against Character.AI, alleging that its chatbot manipulated a 14-year-old boy through deceptive, addictive, and sexually explicit conversations, contributing to his tragic suicide. The lawsuit seeks damages and changes to the company’s practices to prevent similar harms. Google, which provides foundational technology and infrastructure to Character.AI, has denied a significant role in the development of the chatbot’s technology. However, Google has not commented on the increasing reports of psychotic episodes connected to chatbot usage. OpenAI, the creator of ChatGPT, has stated that it is working on automated tools to identify and mitigate harmful interactions but acknowledges that the company has yet to find effective ways to alert users who might be experiencing severe mental health crises during their use of AI. OpenAI CEO Sam Altman recently admitted



that while ChatGPT has issued warnings to users in distress in the past, these alerts often go unheeded or misunderstood. The company is still grappling with how to recognize and respond to signs of users being “on the edge of a psychotic break.” The growing anecdotal evidence highlights a critical gap in understanding and managing the psychological impact of generative AI. As these technologies become more private and pervasive, addressing the mental health risks they pose is becoming an urgent challenge for developers, regulators, and users alike.

"Distance No Barrier to Cultural Bonds": PM Modi Addresses Indian Diaspora in Argentina

TPN Correspondent | Accra

Buenos Aires, July 5, 2025 — Prime Minister Narendra Modi received a warm and enthusiastic welcome from the Indian community upon his arrival in Buenos Aires, Argentina, as part of his ongoing five-nation diplomatic tour. Addressing members of the diaspora, PM Modi highlighted the strength of cultural connections, stating that “distance is no barrier when it comes to cultural connect.”

In a heartfelt message posted on social media platform X, the Prime Minister wrote, “Honoured by the gracious welcome from the Indian community in Buenos Aires. It is truly moving to see how, thousands of kilometres away from home, the spirit of India shines brightly through our Indian community.”

PM Modi landed at Ezeiza International Airport, where he was given a ceremonial wel-



come by Argentinian officials and greeted by jubilant members of the Indian diaspora. Upon arrival at his hotel, he was further welcomed with a traditional Indian dance per-

formance, reflecting the enduring cultural ties between India and its global diaspora.

Chants of “Bharat Mata ki Jai” and “Modi-Modi” echoed as

PM Modi interacted warmly with community members, acknowledging their contributions in strengthening India’s global image.

Akhilesh Verma, an Indian residing in Argentina, told ANI, “It was a great honour to meet PM Modi. His visit is significant for both commercial and cultural relations between India and Argentina. We hope the ties between our countries continue to grow stronger.”

This visit marks a historic milestone, as it is the first bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Argentina in 57 years. The visit comes at the invitation of Argentinian President Javier Milei and is aimed at deepening strategic, economic, and cultural cooperation between the two nations.

Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal called the visit a “new chapter in India-Argentina ties.”



India, Maldives Hold Talks to Strengthen Trade and Investment Ties

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India and the Maldives held high-level discussions in Male on July 5, 2025, aimed at deepening economic cooperation and expanding trade and investment ties. The meeting took place at the Maldivian Ministry of Economic Development, as part of Indian Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal’s official visit.

Barthwal met with Maldivian Economic Development and Trade Minister Mohamed Saeed, and the two sides focused on identifying new opportunities for collaboration while reinforcing existing trade relationships. The state-run Public Service Media (PSM) reported that both leaders had a constructive conversation, aligned with the ongoing momentum to strengthen bilateral engagement.

Minister Saeed later posted on X (formerly Twitter), saying, “Had a productive meeting with India’s Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal. We discussed strengthening trade and investment partnerships and exploring new avenues for economic cooperation.”

In a reciprocal statement, India’s Department of Commerce said the talks aimed at “enhancing trade and investment ties and discovering fresh economic opportunities.”

The Maldives has been actively seeking Indian investments, and recent business forums were held in three Indian cities to showcase economic potential in the island nation. India, meanwhile, continues to be a key development partner, contributing to several infrastructure, capacity-building, and financial assistance projects — including a \$25.94 million currency swap facility to support the Maldivian economy. The meeting follows earlier discussions held in May 2025 during the Maldivian Foreign Minister Abdulla Khaleel’s visit to New Delhi, which focused on implementing the Comprehensive Economic and Maritime Security Partnership agreed upon during President Mohamed Muizzu’s visit to India in October 2024.

Despite early tensions after Muizzu’s election in late 2023, both nations are showing signs of resetting bilateral ties, with the Maldives reaffirming its strategic importance in India’s ‘Neighbourhood First’ policy and Vision MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions).

Bengaluru Court Bars Kamal Haasan From Remarks Against Kannada Language

TPN Correspondent | Chennai

A Bengaluru court has issued an ex-parte interim injunction restraining veteran actor and politician Kamal Haasan from making any statements deemed derogatory or disrespectful toward the Kannada language, its literature, land, or culture. The court also prohibited him from making any claims of linguistic superiority over Kannada.

The Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge passed the order on Friday after hearing a suit filed by the Kannada Sahitya Parishat (KSP), represented by its president Mahesh Joshi.



statement offensive and historically inaccurate.

In its plea, the KSP argued that Kamal Haasan’s comments were defamatory and hurt the sentiments of Kannada-speaking people by undermining the significance and independent origins of the Kannada language. The court found merit in the plaintiff’s plea and issued a temporary injunction to prevent further remarks of this nature.

Alongside the injunction, the court also directed the issuance of a summons to Kamal Haasan and scheduled the next hearing for August 30, 2025. The controversy has stirred emotions across Karnataka, where language and cultural identity hold deep significance. Several Kannada organizations have demanded a formal apology from Haasan, while others have called for a boycott of his film.

EPS Launches New AIADMK Logo, Begins 2026 Campaign with Fierce Attack on DMK

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami (EPS) kicked off the party’s campaign for the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections by unveiling a new party logo and the slogan: “Protecting People, Redeeming Tamil Nadu.” The launch marks the beginning of a state-wide tour where EPS plans to visit all 234 Assembly constituencies, focusing on local issues and reaching out directly to voters.

At the event held Friday, EPS launched a sharp critique of the ruling DMK government, accusing it of failing across the board. “Women’s safety is in shambles. Incidents of sexual violence are reported every day. The DMK has not fulfilled its election promises, and we will expose every unkept assurance,” he stated.

EPS also made a strong appeal to “like-minded parties” to join forces against the DMK, signaling efforts to build a broader opposition alliance. This comes



amid speculation following actor Vijay’s announcement that his party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), will not ally with the BJP. When asked about Vijay distancing himself from the NDA, EPS responded, “That is his decision. In politics, parties will criticize each other — it’s natural.”

On Union Minister Amit Shah’s

comment that the next Chief Minister will be from AIADMK, EPS confidently asserted his leadership, saying, “Amit Shah has made it clear from day one — AIADMK will lead the alliance, and I will be the Chief Minister.”

Despite AIADMK’s setbacks in the 2019 and 2021 elections and a poor showing in 2024, EPS re-

mains confident of a revival, especially after rekindling the alliance with the BJP.

Meanwhile, the DMK has launched its own mass enrolment drive under the “Tamil Nadu Under One Team” campaign, targeting 30% voter registration ahead of what promises to be a high-stakes political contest in 2026.

India Ranked Fourth Most Equal Country in the World: World Bank Report



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India has emerged as the fourth most equal country globally, according to the latest World Bank report, marking a significant milestone in the nation’s economic and social journey. The report highlights a sharp

decline in inequality and a dramatic reduction in extreme poverty over the past decade.

Between 2011-12 and 2022-23, India’s Gini Index — a key measure of income and consumption inequality — improved from 28.8 to 25.5, placing it just behind the Slovak Republic, Slo-

venia, and Belarus. This places India well ahead of countries like China (35.7), the USA (41.8), and the UK, in terms of equality. The Gini Index measures inequality on a scale from 0 (perfect equality) to 100 (complete inequality). India now falls under the “moderately low in-

equality” category, which includes Gini scores between 25 and 30, and is just a fraction away from entering the “low inequality” group.

Alongside this progress, extreme poverty in India has also seen a steep fall—from 16.2% in 2011-12 to just 2.3% in 2022-23. According to the report, 171 million Indians have been lifted out of extreme poverty in this period.

The government attributed these gains to a range of targeted welfare schemes such as PM Jan Dhan Yojana, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), Ayushman Bharat, and Stand-Up India, which have improved financial inclusion, healthcare access, and self-employment.

“This Gini Index score isn’t just a number; it reflects real improvements in people’s lives—access to food, healthcare, jobs, and banking,” the official release stated. India’s ability to blend economic reforms with inclusive growth has become a model for equitable development worldwide.

Trump Signs Tariff Letters to 12 Nations, Set for Release on July 7

TPN Correspondent | Washington

U.S. President Donald Trump has confirmed that he has signed letters to 12 countries outlining new proposed tariff levels on goods exported to the United States. Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One on July 4 while en route to New Jersey, Trump described the communications as “take it or leave it” offers, signaling a tougher trade stance as part of his administration’s push to reset global trade terms in favor of U.S. interests.

Although Trump declined to identify the countries targeted in this latest tariff move, he indicated that full details—including the names of the nations and the specific tariffs—would be released publicly on Monday, July 7, 2025. “You’ll see who they are soon enough,” he said, offering no further elaboration.

The announcement marks another escalation in Trump’s protectionist trade strategy, which has included revisiting existing trade agreements, threatening



tariffs on key imports such as steel and automobiles, and using economic pressure as a diplomatic lever. Analysts believe the new tariffs could potentially impact a wide range of industries, from manufacturing and technology to agriculture and consumer goods.

Trump’s remarks suggest a unilateral approach, with no indication that prior consultations were held with the countries in question. The move could spark retaliatory measures or trade disputes at the World Trade Organization (WTO), particularly if the targeted countries se

Hamdan bin Zayed Reviews Heritage Strategy and Liwa Dates Festival 2025 Plans



TPN Correspondent | Abu Dhabi [UAE]

Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ruler’s Representative in Al Dhafra Region, met with a delegation from the Abu Dhabi Heritage Authority, led by Chairman Faris Khalaf Al Mazrouei, at Al Seef Palace to review the Authority’s new strategic direction and preparations for the upcoming Liwa Dates Festival 2025.

The meeting reaffirmed the UAE leadership’s commitment to preserving and pro-

moting Emirati heritage as a cornerstone of national identity. The Abu Dhabi Heritage Authority’s updated strategy includes over 62 projects and 231 initiatives aimed at embedding heritage in society, empowering traditional industries, nurturing poetry and craftsmanship talent, and amplifying Emirati cultural presence on the global stage.

Hamdan bin Zayed emphasized the importance of safeguarding the UAE’s authentic heritage for future generations, stating it is

both a national and societal duty. He credited President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for his continuous support in making heritage a key pillar of Emirati identity and a source of pride and inspiration.

He commended the Authority for its community-focused initiatives and encouraged expanded public engagement and communication to increase awareness and participation in heritage activities locally and internationally.

The session also featured a detailed briefing on the Al Dhafra Region’s major cultural events, with special focus on the 21st edition of the Liwa Dates Festival. Scheduled with a budget exceeding AED 14 million, the festival annually attracts more than 116,000 visitors and supports over 450,000 attendees across events in the region.

The Liwa Dates Festival will feature 23 competitions, including best dates and summer fruits, with over AED 8 million in prizes. The event showcases traditional markets, productive family exhibits, and heritage crafts, reinforcing the palm tree’s role as a cultural symbol and encouraging the younger generation to embrace their roots.



Pakistan Open to Extraditing Key Individuals to India, Says Bilawal Bhutto

TPN Correspondent | US

In a significant statement hinting at a possible thaw in Indo-Pak relations, former Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that Pakistan has no objection to extraditing “individuals of concern” to India—provided there is a genuine willingness from New Delhi to engage in a broader dialogue.

Speaking to Al Jazeera during an interview on July 4, 2025, Bhutto said such actions could serve as confidence-building measures if approached through comprehensive diplomatic engagement. “As part of a comprehensive dialogue with Pakistan, where terrorism is one of the issues that we discuss, I am sure Pakistan would not be opposed to any of these things,” said Bhutto, who currently serves as chairman of the Pakistan People’s Party (PPP).

His comments came in response to questions about the possible extradition of notorious terror group leaders Hafiz Saeed (Lashkar-e-Taiba) and Masood Azhar (Jaish-e-Mohammad), both of whom are wanted in India for their alleged roles in major terror attacks. The Dawn newspaper also reported Bhutto’s remarks, suggesting that such gestures could be interpreted as acts of goodwill if accompanied by reciprocal efforts from the Indian side.

The statement is noteworthy given the traditionally rigid stance of Pakistani leadership on matters related to cross-border terrorism and extradition. While Bhutto is no longer in office, his comments could reflect shifting political sentiment or a broader openness within sections of Pakistan’s leadership toward constructive engagement with India.

Despite long-standing hostility, sporadic diplomatic efforts have continued over the years. However, trust between the two nuclear-armed neighbors remains fragile, largely due to unresolved issues like terrorism, Kashmir, and border disputes. Observers note that any progress on extradition or anti-terror cooperation would require firm commitments from both governments and the willingness to move past entrenched positions.

Nehal Modi Arrested in U.S. on India's Extradition Request in PNB Fraud Case



charges: one count of money laundering under Section 3 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, and one count of criminal conspiracy under Sections 120-B and 201 of the Indian Penal Code. U.S. prosecutors are leading the extradition proceedings, which are expected to intensify at the next court hearing scheduled for July 17. Nehal is likely to apply for bail, which prosecutors intend to oppose.

According to investigative agencies, Nehal played a key role in hiding and transferring large sums of illicit money using a network of shell companies and offshore entities. The ED alleges that following the exposure of the PNB scam in early 2018, Nehal, along with Nirav’s associate Mihir R. Bhansali, transported around 50 kg of gold and significant amounts of cash from Dubai. He also instructed dummy directors to remain silent about his involvement.

Fluent in English, Gujarati, and Hindi, Nehal Modi has already been named in charge sheets filed by the ED for destruction of evidence and for knowingly aiding Nirav in his financial crimes.

BRICS Nations Set to Condemn Trump Tariffs at Rio Summit

TPN Correspondent | Moscow

Leaders of BRICS nations are poised to strongly criticize former U.S. President Donald Trump’s proposed tariff measures as they gather for the 17th annual BRICS Summit, beginning Sunday, July 6, in Rio de Janeiro. The bloc—comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa—is expected to present a united front against what they deem “unfair and protectionist” U.S. trade policies.

According to sources close to the summit negotiations, the BRICS countries, which represent nearly half of the global population and approximately 40% of the world’s economic output, are coordinating a collective response to the escalating rhetoric and proposed tariff hikes coming out of Washington. The group is expected to issue a joint communique condemning the tariffs and calling for more equitable trade practices.

However, internal divisions persist on other global issues, especially on how to approach the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East. While BRICS leaders are aligned in their opposition to U.S. economic pressure, they remain divided on strategies to address the humanitarian and political crises in the region.



Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin will not attend the summit in person. The Kremlin confirmed that Mr. Putin, who faces an international arrest warrant for alleged war crimes, will participate via video link. His remote presence comes amid heightened global scrutiny of Russia’s foreign policy and military actions.

Security has been heightened in Rio de Ja-

neiro ahead of the summit, with Brazilian Navy marines conducting drills on Gloria Beach to safeguard the high-level gathering.

As BRICS seeks to assert itself as a counterbalance to Western influence in global affairs, the summit’s outcome will be closely watched for signs of greater economic cooperation—and increasing political clout—among the world’s leading emerging economies.

Cement Demand to Grow 7-8% in FY26 Driven by Real Estate and PMAY Push: Report

Cement demand in India is projected to grow between 7-8% in the financial year 2025-26, supported by strong real estate activity and government housing initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), according to a report by Axis Securities.

The report highlights that the ongoing momentum in the real estate sector, coupled with large-scale construction projects under various government schemes including PMAY, will continue to drive steady demand for cement—an essential material for housing infrastructure. Additionally, the government's focus on infrastructure development, reinforced by increased budget allocation for construction in FY26, is expected to further boost cement consumption.

After a modest start to FY25, with only 2-3% year-on-year growth in Q1, the cement sector saw a strong recovery in the second half of the year, expanding at a high single-digit pace in Q3 and Q4. For the full FY25, the sector recorded an overall growth of 4-5%. Core sector data also show an 8% year-on-year rise in cement output



during April-May 2025, driven by robust infrastructure and construction activities. Historically, the last quarter of a financial year and the first quarter of the next tend to be peak periods for cement consumption. This seasonal trend is aided by favourable weather conditions, accelerated government infrastructure spending, and

increased real estate activity, all of which are expected to keep the growth trajectory intact in Q1 FY26.

In summary, the combination of government housing programs like PMAY, a resilient real estate market, and enhanced infrastructure spending underpins a strong outlook for cement demand in the coming year.

Inflation Likely to Align with RBI Projections in Q1 FY26: Bank of Baroda Analysis

Inflation is expected to remain consistent with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) forecasts in the first quarter (Q1) of the financial year 2025-26, according to a recent report from Bank of Baroda (BoB). This outlook is supported by a favorable statistical base and ongoing deflation in essential commodities, which together suggest subdued inflationary pressures in the near term.

The RBI's policy projections estimate Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation at 3.7% for FY26, with a quarterly breakdown of 2.9% in Q1, 3.4% in Q2, 3.9% in Q3, and 4.4% in Q4. The slower inflation rate expected in Q1 is largely attributed to easing prices in essential goods and improved supply conditions across key commodities.

Reinforcing this trend, the Bank of Baroda's Essential Commodities In-



dex (BoB ECI) showed deflation for the third consecutive month in June 2025, declining by 1.8% year-on-year—a sharper fall than the 0.6% dip recorded in May. This persistent deflation is mainly due to significant price corrections in vegetables and pulses, driven by increased production and better supply dynamics.

The report highlights that this ongoing deflation in essential commodities will continue to moderate overall inflation, providing relief to consumers and helping stabilize the cost of living. Since essentials form a large part of household expenses, their price moderation has a meaningful impact on inflation expectations.

Given these conditions, the RBI is expected to maintain a cautious stance in upcoming monetary policy decisions, carefully monitoring inflation trends across both essential and discretionary items.

In conclusion, with a favorable supply environment and a supportive base effect, inflation in Q1 FY26 is likely to stay within the RBI's target range, indicating relative price stability during the quarter.

Unified Pension Scheme to Get NPS-Like Tax Benefits

The Finance Ministry announced on Friday that the newly introduced Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) for central government employees will receive tax benefits similar to those available under the National Pension System (NPS). This move aims to encourage greater participation in the UPS, which has been in effect since April 1, 2025.

The ministry clarified that tax provisions under the NPS will apply “mutatis mutandis” to UPS, ensuring parity between the two pension schemes. This means that employees opting for the UPS will enjoy the same substantial tax relief and incentives as those under the NPS framework.

Under the NPS, individuals



can claim an annual tax deduction of up to ₹2 lakh on their own contributions. Additionally, employer contributions receive tax benefits under Section 80CCD(2), allowing deductions up to 10% of the employee's salary (Basic + Dearness Allowance). For central government employees, this limit increases to 14%, exceeding the general ₹1.5 lakh deduction ceiling under Section

80CCE.

By extending these tax benefits to UPS, the government aims to make the new pension scheme more attractive to its employees. The UPS consolidates various existing pension plans into a unified structure, simplifying retirement benefits for central government workers. With these tax incentives, employees

can save more on taxes while securing their post-retirement financial stability.

The move also reflects the government's commitment to strengthening social security frameworks and ensuring consistent benefits across pension schemes. The introduction of UPS and its alignment with NPS tax benefits signal an effort to modernize and streamline pension provisions, benefiting millions of central government employees.

In summary, the UPS now offers a competitive edge by matching NPS's tax advantages, encouraging broader adoption and better retirement planning among government employees.

India Plans \$724 Million Retaliatory Tariffs on U.S. Imports Amid Trade Tensions



India has formally informed the World Trade Organization (WTO) of its intention to impose retaliatory tariffs worth nearly \$724 million on certain U.S. imports. This move is a response to the United States' recent decision to raise tariffs on specific automobiles and automotive parts imported from India.

The Indian government justified the proposed suspension of concessions and obligations under WTO rules by citing the U.S.'s failure to hold prior consultations before increasing the tariffs. According to India, this breach of protocol gives it the right to withdraw equivalent trade benefits previously extended to the U.S.

This development arrives against the backdrop of ongoing trade negotiations between the two countries. India and the U.S. are reportedly in the advanced stages of finalizing a mini trade agreement aimed at easing tensions and boosting bilateral commerce. The Indian delegation, led by Rajesh Agarwal, Special Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce

and Industry, recently returned from talks in the United States.

Despite the progress on the trade deal, the tariff dispute highlights continuing friction between the two economic partners. India's retaliatory tariffs would apply to various U.S. products, signaling a firm stance against what it sees as unfair trade practices.

India's move underscores the complexities of global trade relations, where strategic economic interests often collide with diplomatic negotiations. It also reflects India's readiness to defend its trade rights in international forums like the WTO.

As negotiations continue, both countries face pressure to resolve their differences to ensure smoother trade ties. The upcoming weeks will be crucial in determining whether India and the U.S. can reach a mutually acceptable agreement or if the tariff measures will escalate into a broader trade conflict.

Indian Stock Market Opens Marginally Higher Amid Mixed Global Cues



Mumbai: The Indian stock market opened slightly higher on Friday, with benchmark indices showing modest gains amid mixed global signals. Early buying interest was seen in the IT, PSU bank, and financial services sectors.

At 9:34 am, the Sensex was trading 32.52 points, or 0.04%, higher at 83,271.99, while the Nifty gained 3.45 points, or 0.01%, to 25,408.75. The Nifty Bank index rose by 9.90 points, or 0.02%, to 56,801.85.

Despite the positive start, the Nifty 50 failed to maintain momentum and slipped below its intraday support level of 25,450, forming a bearish candlestick on the daily chart. Hardik Matalia, Derivative Analyst at Choice Broking, noted that this could signal a potential trend reversal, though confirmation is still awaited. He added that a sustained move above 25,600 could open the way for a rally toward 25,750. On the downside, immediate supports lie at 25,222 and 25,120, which could be considered entry points for long positions.

The Nifty Midcap 100 and Smallcap 100 indices showed healthy gains of

0.15% and 0.13%, respectively, with midcaps trading at 59,771.65 and smallcaps at 19,051.80.

Among Sensex constituents, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, BEL, HDFC Bank, and Hindustan Unilever Limited were top gainers, while Trent, Tata Steel, Tech Mahindra, and Titan lagged behind.

On the institutional front, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) continued their selling streak for the fourth day, offloading equities worth Rs 1,481.19 crore on July 3. Conversely, Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) remained net buyers with purchases totaling Rs 1,333.06 crore.

Globally, most Asian markets including Bangkok, Hong Kong, Japan, Seoul, and Jakarta traded lower, while China closed in positive territory. Meanwhile, US markets closed sharply higher on Thursday, with the Dow Jones, S&P 500, and Nasdaq ending up by 0.77%, 0.83%, and 1.02%, respectively. Viram Shah, CEO of Vested Finance, attributed the US gains to a stronger-than-expected jobs report and a dip in unemployment to 4.1%.

Stranded UK Fighter Jet in Kerala Sparks Meme Fest - ‘F-35B Nair Got Its PAN Card’

The British Royal Navy’s cutting-edge F-35B fighter jet, which has been grounded in Kerala since June 14, is no longer just a military aircraft — it’s now a full-blown meme sensation. As a 40-member team of UK aviation experts prepares to land in Thiruvananthapuram on July 5 to repair the \$110 million jet, social media has turned the incident into a viral comedy goldmine. The stealth jet, which made an emergency landing at the Thiruvananthapuram International Airport, has remained parked under close watch by a six-member team from the HMS Prince of Wales. But while the aircraft awaits technical clearance, it has been unofficially “adopted” by Indian meme creators — and hilarity has ensued. Social media users, seizing the opportunity, have turned the jet into a Kerala resident. “F-35B Nair got its PAN card. Now it’s time to link it with Aadhaar as per Govt. rules,” read one post, which quickly garnered thousands of shares. Another meme imagines the jet holding a ration card, and others joke about it learning Malayalam and applying for local benefits. Even Kerala Tourism couldn’t resist joining the fun. Quoting a satirical tweet from “The Fauxy,” they posted: “Kerala, the destination you’ll never want to leave. Thank you, The Fauxy.” The tweet featured the grounded aircraft with the humorous caption: “Kerala is such an amazing place, I don’t want to leave. Definitely recommend.”



Another meme showed the pilot “connecting with the ATC” in broken Malayalam, while some compared the fighter jet’s prolonged stay to that of a tourist falling in love with Kerala’s charm. While serious aviation efforts are underway to restore the aircraft and fly it back to the UK, for now, the F-35B has unofficially become ‘F-35B Nair’ — Kerala’s newest and most expensive guest who “just doesn’t want to leave.” In the meantime, the memes continue, with one user cheekily warning, “At this rate, F-35B will apply for a voter ID next.” Whether in the air or grounded on a tropical runway, it seems this jet has found a permanent place in India’s digital pop culture.



Peri Peri Masala Corn... The Perfect Monsoon Snack You Didn’t Know You Needed

TPN Food Desk | Lifestyle
As the rains roll in, so do our cravings for something warm, spicy, and satisfying. There’s something about the monsoon season that makes hot, flavourful snacks feel extra special. And when it comes to quick bites that hit the right spot, Peri Peri Masala Corn is stealing the show. With its blend of buttery sweetness and a fiery kick, this dish is the perfect comfort food for a rainy evening. Peri Peri Masala Corn takes the humble boiled corn and elevates it with bold flavours. The combination of soft corn kernels tossed in melted butter, tangy lemon juice, and spicy peri peri seasoning creates a taste explosion that balances heat with zing. It’s the kind of snack that makes you forget the gloomy weather outside as you savour

every bite indoors. Whether you’re catching up on a movie or chatting with family, this spicy corn bowl is a must-have monsoon companion. Beyond the taste, this dish can also be a smart, healthy choice. Corn is naturally rich in fibre, vitamins, and minerals. When prepared with minimal butter and a controlled amount of salt, it becomes a guilt-free alternative to deep-fried snacks. The addition of turmeric and lemon adds both health value and a pleasant twist to the flavour. Enjoyed in moderation, it fits perfectly into a balanced diet. To make this mouthwatering snack, begin by removing the husk from fresh corn and cutting the cobs in half. Boil them in water mixed with a pinch of turmeric, salt, and a splash of milk to give the kernels a soft,

rich texture. While the corn boils, prepare the masala mix in a separate bowl by blending butter, peri peri seasoning, oregano, chilli flakes, lemon juice, and finely chopped coriander leaves. Once the corn is cooked, drain it and coat each piece thoroughly with the spicy mixture. For an added smoky flavour, lightly roast the coated corn on a pan or over an open flame. Serve hot and enjoy the burst of flavours with every bite. Monsoons are all about warmth and indulgence, and Peri Peri Masala Corn ticks both boxes. It’s simple to make, packed with flavour, and brings just the right amount of spice to brighten a rainy day. So next time the clouds gather, skip the regular snacks and give this easy, delicious twist a try — your taste buds will thank you.

Black Salt: A Tasty Path to Better Health

TPN Health Desk
Black salt is not just a flavorful addition to food — it’s also a powerful health ally. Ayurvedic and nutritional experts now recommend black salt as a superior alternative to regular white salt, especially for people dealing with blood pressure issues and digestive disorders. Unlike white salt, black salt contains less sodium, making it safer for those with hypertension. Doctors often advise reducing salt intake in such cases, but black salt

offers a healthy workaround. It also acts as a natural remedy for indigestion, gas, bloating, constipation, and heartburn — providing quick and effective relief. What makes black salt more beneficial is its mineral content. It is packed with iron, potassium, calcium, and magnesium. Potassium improves muscle function and helps prevent muscle cramps and night sweats, while iron boosts blood health and helps in preventing anemia. Its dark color is due to this rich iron content.

Black salt’s advantages go beyond internal health. It plays an important role in skin and hair care as well. With its anti-inflammatory properties, it helps reduce rashes, itching, and acne, and can even address dandruff and hair fall issues naturally. Switching from white salt to black salt in daily cooking is a simple lifestyle change that can offer long-term health benefits. With its unique taste and medicinal properties, black salt truly supports overall wellness — one pinch at a time.



It’s Not a Wall, It’s a House! Netizens Stunned by Bizarre Structure in Bihar

An unusual house structure in Khagaria district of Bihar has taken the internet by storm, leaving netizens confused and amazed. At first glance, the building looks like nothing more than a tall, narrow wall — but a side view reveals it is, in fact, a fully built house. The pictures of this bizarre structure, initially shared by a local media outlet, have now gone viral on social media platforms. Thousands of users are expressing disbelief over how such a paper-thin house could even exist, let alone be livable. From the front, it appears no wider than a couple of feet, almost like a partition wall. But when viewed from the side, the full structure — complete with doors, windows, and floors — becomes visible. This optical illusion is leaving viewers stunned, with many calling it the “thinnest house in India.” Online reactions have ranged from admiration for the creativity of the builder to jokes about how real estate prices must have pushed people to extreme innovation. While the exact dimensions and purpose of the house remain unclear, its unique architecture has undoubtedly turned it into a viral sensation, with many users urging local authorities or architects to reveal more details behind the design and construction. For now, one thing is certain — what looked like a wall has now become one of the most talked-about houses in the country.



Bee Hummingbird: The World’s Smallest Bird That Flies in Reverse

Nature’s tiniest marvel, the Bee Hummingbird, is a living jewel that defies expectations. Native to Cuba, this miniature bird holds the title of the smallest bird in the world, growing to just 5 to 6 centimeters in length and weighing only 1.5 to 2 grams—lighter than a grain of rice and smaller than a human finger. With its delicate size and fast-beating wings, it’s often mistaken for a bee, especially when it emits a buzzing sound mid-flight.



But don’t be fooled by its size—the Bee Hummingbird is an extraordinary flier. Unlike most birds that can only move forward, this tiny wonder is capable of flying in reverse. After feeding on nectar from flowers, it gracefully pulls back in mid-air before zipping off to the next bloom. Its wings flap at a mind-boggling speed of over 80 times per second, and during intense flight, this can increase to nearly 200 flaps per second.

The male Bee Hummingbird is a sight to behold, adorned with bright, iridescent feathers in glowing shades of red or orange that shimmer under sunlight. Females, while still beautiful, have a more muted appearance, lacking the male’s flamboyant

coloring. These birds are also skilled nest-builders, crafting tiny, nearly invisible nests out of spider silk and tree bark, often perched delicately on thin branches. The female lays just two eggs at a time—each smaller than a pea. Despite their beauty and uniqueness, Bee Hummingbirds face threats from deforestation, pesticide use, and urban expansion, which continue to shrink their natural habitat. As one of nature’s most fragile creations, their survival reminds us of the urgent need to protect biodiversity and the delicate balance of our ecosystems.

England Women Edge India by Five Runs in Thrilling Third T20I to Keep Series Alive

In a nail-biting encounter at the Kia Oval on July 4, 2025, England Women managed to secure a narrow five-run victory over India Women in the third T20 International, keeping the series alive. Despite a dramatic batting collapse and some sloppy fielding, England held their nerves to edge past the visitors in a thrilling finish.



The match unfolded as a rollercoaster, with both sides showing moments of brilliance and vulnerability. England's innings was marked by a spectacular collapse late in their batting effort, yet they managed to post a challenging total on the board. The English bowlers then delivered crucial breakthroughs, applying pressure on India's batting lineup.

India's chase started on a positive note, with their batters showing intent and fluency. However, as the innings progressed, the pressure of the target and England's disciplined bowling made scoring difficult. The Indian team struggled to accelerate in the final overs, with wickets falling at crucial moments.

Despite a late surge, India fell short by just five runs, their batting faltering at the death. England's fielders, despite some lapses, managed to hold key positions and make vital stops that contributed to their narrow win.

This victory is significant for England as it keeps the three-match series alive, setting up a highly anticipated decider. Both teams will look to regroup and strategize for the final T20I, aiming to claim the series win.

Overall, it was a gripping contest showcasing the high level of competition and talent in women's cricket, with England edging India in an intense battle at the iconic Kia Oval.

Chelsea Triumphs 2-1 Over Palmeiras to Reach Club World Cup Semifinals

Chelsea secured a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Palmeiras on Friday night at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia, advancing to the semifinals of the FIFA Club World Cup. The Blues will next face Brazilian rivals Fluminense, who defeated Al Hilal 2-1 in the quarterfinals.



The match began with Chelsea taking an early lead, thanks to a clinical finish from Cole Palmer in the 16th minute. Palmer's goal set the tone for the contest and gave Chelsea the confidence to control much of the game's early proceedings. However, Palmeiras responded strongly after the break.

In the 53rd minute, Estêvão, an 18-year-old Palmeiras star set to join Chelsea this summer, scored a brilliant equalizer against his future team. His angled shot found the back of the net, leveling the score and injecting fresh energy into the Brazilian side.

The game remained tightly contested until the late stages, when Chelsea's Malo Gusto struck in the 83rd minute. His shot, aided by a couple of deflections, found its way past the Palmeiras goalkeeper, restoring Chelsea's lead and

ultimately proving decisive.

Chelsea's defense managed to hold firm in the closing minutes, despite Palmeiras pushing hard for an equalizer. The win marks a significant milestone for Chelsea as they continue their pursuit of the Club World Cup title.

The semifinal clash against Fluminense promises to be a thrilling encounter, featuring two Brazilian teams on opposite sides of the bracket. Chelsea will aim to carry their momentum forward as they target a place in the final.

Overall, it was an intense quarterfinal battle highlighted by individual brilliance and tactical discipline, with Chelsea emerging victorious thanks to timely goals and resilient defending.

Alcaraz Advances to Wimbledon Last 16 as Sabalenka Edges Out Raducanu

Carlos Alcaraz fought past Jan-Lennard Struff to reach the Wimbledon last 16 on Friday, while top-seeded Aryna Sabalenka outlasted Emma Raducanu in a thrilling women's match at the All England Club.



Alcaraz, the tournament's second seed and reigning champion, defeated the German world number 125 with a score of 6-1, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4. Despite an inconsistent performance marked by 28 unforced errors, the 22-year-old Spaniard displayed enough skill and resilience to stay on course for a historic third consecutive Wimbledon title. He will next face Russia's Andrey Rublev in the fourth round. Alcaraz admitted the match was tough, especially facing Struff's powerful serve on grass, and acknowledged he struggled in many service games. Nonetheless, he praised his fighting spirit and ability to make crucial shots under pressure.

In the women's draw, the tournament saw a major shake-up as several top seeds, including Australian Open champion Madison Keys, were eliminated early. Sabalenka remains the only player among the top six women's seeds still competing.

She defeated Britain's Raducanu 7-6 (8/6), 6-4 in a high-intensity encounter, saving a set point in the first set and prevailing against a vocally supported opponent. Sabalenka, a three-time Grand Slam winner yet a Wimbledon semi-finalist only once, said the crowd's energy was overwhelming and pushed her to fight for every point.

Other notable results included Japan's Naomi Osaka exiting in a three-set loss to Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, and Britain's Cameron Norrie advancing to the quarter-finals for the first time since 2022. Meanwhile, American players Taylor Fritz and Ben Shelton progressed with strong wins, maintaining interest in the men's draw.

Neeraj Chopra Wins Inaugural NC Classic with 86.18m Throw

Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra added another feather to his cap by winning the first-ever Neeraj Chopra (NC) Classic 2025 held at Bengaluru's Sree Kanteerava Stadium on July 5. Competing in front of a home crowd and his family, the 27-year-old threw 86.18 meters in his third attempt to clinch the title at the event he himself hosted. The NC Classic, jointly organized by Chopra and JSW Sports and sanctioned by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI), featured a high-calibre lineup of 12 javelin throwers — including seven international names and five Indian athletes. The event has also earned a prestigious Category 'A' status from World Athletics, highlighting its global relevance. Kenya's Julius Yego, the reigning 2025 World Champion, secured second place with a best effort of 84.51m, while Rumesch Pathirage of Sri Lanka came in third, just behind, with 84.34m. This win marks Chopra's third straight victory in just over two weeks, following triumphs at the Paris Diamond League on June 20 and the Golden Spike in Ostrava, Poland, on June 24. In Ostrava, he threw 85.29m, showcasing consistent top-level



form. The NC Classic also held emotional significance for Chopra, who described hosting a world-class competition in India as a long-cherished dream. With his parents watching from the stands, the win was more than just another title — it was a celebration of Indian athletics on home

soil. Fresh off crossing the 90m mark in May, Chopra's dominant form and vision for growing the sport domestically are fast turning him into a global ambassador for javelin throw. The NC Classic may well become a landmark annual event in international athletics.

Gill Scores Twin Tons as India Tighten Grip on Second Test Against England

Shubman Gill delivered yet another batting masterclass, notching up his second century of the match and third in four innings, as India tightened their hold over England on Day 4 of the second Test at Edgbaston. His composed yet commanding ton helped India stretch their lead to a daunting 484 runs by tea, with the scoreboard reading 304/4 in their second innings. After starting cautiously, Gill shifted gears post-lunch, accelerating the scoring rate and reaching his hundred just before the tea break with a single off Shoaib Bashir. It was a milestone moment—not only did he complete back-to-back hundreds in the match, but he also surpassed Sunil Gavaskar's record for most runs by an Indian in a Test match. Gavaskar had scored 344 runs in a single Test back in 1971. Gill found strong support from Rishabh Pant, who smashed a quickfire 65 off 58 balls, including a flurry of fours and sixes that thrilled the crowd. The pair added 110 runs for the fourth wicket, with Pant's ag-



gressive strokeplay lifting the tempo. His entertaining knock ended when he lost control of his bat while attempting a big shot against Tongue. The morning session had its share of drama too. KL Rahul (55) played fluently before falling to a stunning delivery from Josh Tongue that uprooted his middle stump. Earlier, Karun Nair (26) was dismissed by Brydon Carse after being subjected to some hostile bowling, including

a bouncer that struck his helmet. Despite early breakthroughs, England's bowlers struggled to contain Gill's fluency. Tongue's short-ball tactics backfired, as Gill dispatched him twice over fine leg and added a flat-batted boundary to underline his authority. With one day remaining, India are firmly in control, setting England a massive target and eyeing a series-leveling win.



Suresh Raina Set to Make Acting Debut in Tamil Cinema



Former Indian cricketer and Chennai Super Kings (CSK) legend Suresh Raina is all set to step into the world of cinema. Raina, affectionately known as “Chinna Thala” by Tamil cricket fans, will make his acting debut in the Tamil film industry. The announcement was made during a grand launch event held in Chennai on Friday evening.

The film will be helmed by popular Bollywood director Logan and produced under the newly launched DKS banner. The event was attended by several notable celebrities, including CSK’s Shivam Dube, who unveiled the name and logo of the production house. Although Raina is currently enjoying a family vacation in Amsterdam, he joined the event via video call to share his excitement about the new journey.

Known for his charismatic presence both on and off the field, Raina has previously ap-

peared in numerous television commercials. His ease in front of the camera and immense popularity in Tamil Nadu make his transition to films a highly anticipated one. Fans are eager to see how the cricketer-turned-actor performs on the big screen.

Back in 2021, Raina had hinted at his interest in the entertainment industry during an interview. He even suggested that his life story would make for an inspiring biopic and named actors Suriya and Dulquer Salmaan as ideal choices to portray him.

As he embarks on this exciting new chapter, Raina joins a growing list of sports personalities exploring opportunities in film. While further details about the film’s plot and cast are yet to be revealed, the buzz surrounding Raina’s debut has already set the stage for a promising start to his acting career.

Salman Khan Unveils Powerful First Look from ‘Battle of Galwan’

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan has set the internet ablaze with the release of the motion poster for his upcoming film, Battle of Galwan. The much-anticipated film, inspired by the fierce Galwan Valley clash, promises to be a hard-hitting patriotic action drama, and fans are already buzzing with excitement.



In the newly released motion poster, Salman Khan sports a gripping and intense look—his face streaked with blood, eyes filled with steely determination, and a commanding moustache that adds to his powerful screen presence. The visual has resonated strongly with fans, many of whom have flooded social media with praise and anticipation for what could be one of the most impactful roles of his career.

Battle of Galwan is said to explore one of the most defining moments in recent Indian military history, shedding light on the bravery and sacrifice of Indian soldiers. With its emotionally charged subject and Salman’s compelling look, the film is already being hailed as a potential blockbuster.

The project is being directed by

Apoorva Lakhia, known for his flair in directing gritty action films. While the full cast has not yet been revealed, production is expected to begin shortly. Salman Khan, who has previously played patriotic roles in films like Bharat and Tiger Zinda Hai, is once again set to strike a chord with audiences through this nationalistic narrative.

As fans eagerly await further details, the motion poster has undoubtedly set the tone for what promises to be an emotionally powerful and action-packed cinematic experience. With the backdrop of real events and Salman Khan leading the charge, Battle of Galwan is already being considered one of the most awaited films of the coming year.

Tharun Bhascker and Eesha Rebba Clash in ‘Om Shanti Shanti Shantihi’

Actor-director Tharun Bhascker is stepping back in front of the camera for a new rural drama titled Om Shanti Shanti Shantihi, directed by debutant Sajeev AR. The film also stars Eesha Rebba as the female lead and is being jointly produced by S Originals and Movie Verse Studios. The intriguing title and concept were officially revealed today through a poster and a concept video released in 2D format.

The title, Om Shanti Shanti Shantihi, hints at a deeper, possibly ironic message, especially given the film’s focus on conflict within a seemingly peaceful setting. The poster captures this contrast vividly, showcasing a tense face-off between the lead pair, though their faces remain hidden—leaving much to the imagination. The rural setting and the intensity of their standoff already hint at a unique storyline.

The concept video offers a sneak peek into the film’s narrative. Eesha Rebba plays Kon-

daveeti Prashanti, a spirited village woman who marries Ambati Omkar Naidu, portrayed by Tharun Bhascker. What starts as a typical village romance quickly transforms into a turbulent relationship, cleverly symbolized through cockfighting metaphors. The unconventional depiction of their post-marriage disputes adds a creative layer to the storytelling.

Adding to the rural authenticity is the vibrant background score by Jay Krish, which perfectly captures the film’s village setting and emotional tone. His music enhances the earthy, local flavor of the visuals and sets the mood for what promises to be a quirky and engaging rural drama.

With its fresh concept, unique title, and talented cast, Om Shanti Shanti Shantihi has already generated considerable buzz. The film is slated for release on August 1st, and expectations are high for this offbeat, symbolic take on love and conflict in a village backdrop.



‘Venkata Ramana’ Tipped as Title for Venkatesh-Trivikram’s #Venky77

Excitement continues to build around veteran actor Victory Venkatesh’s 77th film, tentatively titled #Venky77, which will mark his first collaboration with acclaimed filmmaker Trivikram Srinivas. While an official announcement is still awaited, fresh industry buzz suggests that the makers are considering the title Venkata Ramana for the project.

Adding to the intrigue, the rumored tagline for the film is Care of Aanandha Nilayam, which hints at a family-centric narrative rooted in emotion and humor. The combination of Venkatesh’s natural flair for family entertainers and Trivikram’s mastery of blending sentiment with wit makes this pairing especially promising. Trivikram is known for selecting titles that resonate deeply with audiences, often with cultural or emotional undertones, and Venkata Ramana seems to follow that tradition.

Though details remain under wraps, the project is reportedly progressing behind the scenes, with pre-production work quietly underway. If every-



thing falls into place, the film is expected to go on floors in August, with a potential release in Summer 2026.

Meanwhile, Venkatesh has a packed slate. He is part of the ensemble cast in the upcoming film featuring Chiranjeevi and directed by Anil Ravipudi, a project that already has fans buzzing. There is also continued anticipation around Drushyam 3, the third installment of the successful thriller franchise, a remake of Mohanlal’s

Malayalam blockbuster.

As speculation continues around #Venky77, fans are eagerly awaiting an official confirmation of the title and cast. With the potential of Venkata Ramana and the creative force of Trivikram Srinivas behind it, this film could be yet another memorable addition to Venkatesh’s illustrious career. Further updates are expected to emerge in the coming weeks.

Title & First Glimpse of Varun Tej’s Korean Horror Comedy to Be Unveiled Soon

Mega hero Varun Tej is all set to surprise audiences with a fresh genre in his career — a horror comedy with a Korean twist. The upcoming film, tentatively titled VT15, is being shot across stunning locations in India and South Korea, promising a unique blend of scares and laughs.

Rumors suggest the title might be Korean Kanakarakaju, and the makers have already raised excitement levels by unveiling a special poster. The official title and first glimpse video are set to be released soon, heightening anticipation for what’s shaping up to be an unconventional and high-energy cinematic ride.

Directed by Merlapaka Gandhi, known for his knack for humor and storytelling, the film features Ritika Nayak as the female lead and comedian Satya in a significant role. The shoot is currently progressing at a brisk pace in Korea, with some of the film’s most entertaining sequences being canned.

Backed by UV Creations and First Frame Entertainment, VT15 is being mounted on a grand scale. Music is composed by Thaman, who is expected to elevate the film’s mood with his energetic soundtrack. Stay tuned — the thrills and chills of VT15 are just around the corner.

